



JACKSON LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION



Volume 13 July 2005

Newsletter

Board Meeting...

The Board Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 19, 2005**, at the Mississippi Bar Center, 643 North State Street. Lunch will be provided by the members from the Forman, Perry firm.



Monthly Meeting...

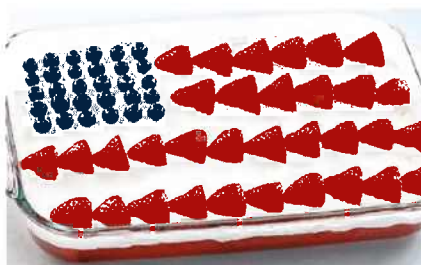
Our July meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 27, 2005**, at noon at Mardi Gras Restaurant.

Welcome New Members...

Cristina White from Page, Kruger and Holland, P.A., and **Olivia K. Burgess** and **Peggy Plummer** from Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC.

Happy Anniversary...

5 - Dunal & Sterling McCurdy
10 - Kathy and Brian Curry
15 - Kasandra and Tyrone Hewitt



Happy Birthday to:

- 11 Sheila D. Gold
- Mellanie Burroughs
- 12 Kathy M. Curry
- 14 Deena Bradley
- 26 Lisa May Jones
- 28 Belinda D. Corley
- 29 Alicia Sanford

The editor apologizes to Alicia and Ryan Sanford for missing their wedding anniversary on June 12th, and to Reba and James Peden for missing their 27th anniversary on June 2nd. I've got you on my list now, so it won't happen again. Note to Members: Please send me your birthday month and day and your wedding anniversary date and husband's name so I can double check my list. Thank you!



ALS/PLS/PP Study Group...

The ALS/PLS/PP Study Group is being held every Thursday night, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bar Center, 643 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202.

The JLPA Nursery...

Congratulations to Marilyn Mills on the birth of her grandchild, Kierstin Raschelle. This is Marilyn's step-daughter, Erica Mills and Kierstin Raschelle, who was born on June 7, 2005, and weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long. Marilyn and her husband, Tony (Erica's Dad) are now proud grandparents,



Congratulations to Tom and Leslie Alexander on the birth of their daughter, Sarah-Kate Alexander, who was born May 12, 2005. Sarah-Kate weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and is 19 inches long. Momma Leslie is a JLPA member and works at Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P.A.



Inspiration...

ARE YOU INTERESTED in presenting a JLPA monthly meeting inspiration? If so, please contact Renee Dean, Inspiration Co-Chairperson at 601-968-5505 or e-mail at rmd@wisecarter.com

JLPA Program Chairman's

Point of View

John Breland, Esq., Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush will speak to us on "Establishing Systems of Justice in An Emerging Democracy" at our July monthly luncheon.

Felicia Turner
Program Chair

You know you work at a law firm when...

1. When your boss says, "We have a brief we need filed tomorrow. I need you here early", it means: "Come in early, wait all day, skip lunch and plan to stay late because I won't give you the first draft until 3:30 p.m. and we really have until the last Federal Express leaves the airport to get it out".

2. Your office closes for a holiday and all you can think about are the hours you'll have to make up for taking that day off.

3. A partner comes into your office and wants you to work on a project, saying: "Make it perfect, but don't spend a lot of time on it because we can't bill the client for this," you're left wondering what the heck you're supposed to do. You do the work, and get absolutely no credit for it in the end, since it wasn't "billable hours."

4. The fire alarm goes off in the building, and no one in your offices moves

5. Your biggest loss from the system crash is that you lose your best jokes, all of your music and/or pictures you may have saved

6. Your supervisor doesn't have the ability to do your job. Most days you have the ability to do your boss's job.

7. Salaries of the members on the "Executive Committee" are higher than all the third world countries' annual budgets combined.

8. Free food left over from a meeting is your main staple.

9. You're already late on the work task that you "just" got.

10. You think that a bad lawyer can let a case drag out for several years and a good one can make it last even longer.

11. You believe a forty word sentence is too short.

12. When your wife says "I love you," you cross-examine her.

13. And finally, you just billed a .5 for reading these jokes to the next case you have going to trial.

**Felicia Turner
Programs Chairman**



An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative but very curious about why the farmer had called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Well, Buddy is blind, you see? And Buddy is REAL smart. By golly, if Buddy thought he was the ONLY horse pulling, he wouldn't even try."



Rose Jones is our JLPA Employment Chairman. If you would like a copy of the employment list please e-mail Rose at:
rjones@watkinsludlam.com





MEDIATION IS A BARGAIN Thomas W. Crockett

What is mediation? It is not arbitration, which is a process in which the parties agree to allow a neutral third party to make a binding decision to resolve a dispute between them. Mediation is a non-binding process in which parties to a dispute engage the service of a trained neutral person to help them reach a settlement of a dispute without the necessity of going to court. It is private, confidential and usually results in settlement in one day. Since the parties have to agree to the settlement, it serves to maintain the relationship between the disputing parties. This is especially important when the relationship between the parties is a valuable one, such as vendor-vendee, business partner or associate, lender-borrower, and, of course, the parents of young children. In short, it saves time, money, emotional stress and important relationships.

Mediation is a bargain. About 85% of all mediated cases settle. Even if the entire case is not settled, money saving agreements such as mutual disclosure of information or stipulations on non-controverted facts are usually reached. The cost of mediation is a fraction of the cost of trial, especially if the mediation is held early on in the proceedings.

Preparation and cooperation are the keys to a successful mediation. To save time and money, suggest that your lawyer follow these simple suggestions:

- Select a competent mediator who has experience in mediating and litigating in the area of law involved. Ask for references.
- Bring to the mediation all advisors who must be consulted to make a final decision. If the advisor does not go through the mediation process, she will not have ownership in the result and may well veto it.
- Mediate as early as possible. The parties can usually get enough information through mediation to make a decision without exhaustive discovery.
- Communicate with the mediator so he can understand and advocate your position to your adversary. The mediator wants to help you settle the case, and the more he knows about your position, the better he can persuade your adversary.
- Prepare a draft settlement agreement and final judgment with as many agreed upon provisions as possible and bring a disc to the mediation session. If agreement is reached, fill in the blanks, have the parties sign the agreement and consent judgment at the mediation session, and the matter is concluded with no further expense or delay.
- Disclose information to the other party sufficient for her to decide to accept your proposal, and make sure you have enough information to make a decision. No one can be expected to make a decision without all the necessary facts. Use the mediator to help on this matter.

- Make experts available to the other side prior to the mediation and, if not personally at the mediation session, at least on the telephone for the mediation. Disputes can frequently be resolved by having the experts talk directly to each other.

- Educate yourself to understand that mediation is not "win-lose" but "win-win". The resolution probably will not be the one that you initially seek; it must be one that meets both parties' needs. Each party must give a little. The dispute will come to an end. The question is whether the decision will be made by the parties in cooperation with each other, or by the court.

If both parties want to settle and their lawyers will follow these tips, mediation will be a bargain. It will save the client and our over-crowded court system time and money.

Thomas W. Crockett practices in mediation and litigation. He is a shareholder of Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P. A., 633 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi; mailing address: P. O. Box 427, Jackson, MS 39205-0427; ph: (601) 949-4881; e-mail: tcrockett@wlvslaw.com



